

Elopement Management Checklist



Elopement Management Program

- Does the Elopement Management Policy Include:
 - Frequency of elopement risk-assessments (e.g., admission, readmission, change in condition, quarterly, and after an elopement event)
 - Elopement management safety measures (e.g., frequent monitoring, room placement close to common areas, participation in group activities of interest to the resident, electronic monitoring)
 - Elopement management care plan interventions (e.g., redirection with behavior triggers related to wandering/elopement, wayfinding support)
 - Creation of an individualized care plan aimed at reducing elopement risk with monitoring for effectiveness
 - Team guidance for documentation and communication of wandering and elopement risk and management
 - Interdisciplinary Care Team involvement including meeting schedule and oversight responsibilities
 - Documented elopement management education for residents (as appropriate)
 - Documented elopement management education for family members (e.g., on admission and change in condition, and at least annually at Family Council meetings)
 - Documented staff education on elopement management on hire and at least annually
 - Missing resident response plan
 - Assessment, monitoring, and reporting responsibilities after an elopement event
 - Investigation and review of contributing elopement risk factors post-event
 - Elopement drills on all shifts, at least two times per year, with post-drill evaluation¹
- Implement a formal process to conduct elopement huddles with team members caring for the resident post-elopement event evaluating contributing factors and interventions to support resident safety
- Train staff, managers, and leaders to use root-cause analysis tools including the Five-Why's in evaluating wandering and elopement events
- Review elopement risk during Shift Report, Morning Meeting/Morning Clinical Meeting including new admissions, residents with a change in condition, and residents that have had a change in elopement risk in the past 24-hours
- Maintain a resident profile (picture and description) in a central location for at-risk residents

Pre-Admission Elopement-Risk Identification

- Review the resident's medical history for elopement risk factors and a history of wandering/elopement prior to admission
- Consider wandering/elopement history when making residents room assignments and other care planning prior to arrival

Admission Risk Assessment

- Utilize a standardized professional elopement risk assessment scoring tool for assessing elopement risk
- Does the assessment tool include:
 - History of wandering/elopement events (note some residents and family members may be hesitant to share wandering history)
 - Impaired cognition, including fluctuating mental status or change in cognition ²
 - Behaviors where the resident is not easily redirected or managed when upset or agitated ¹
 - Underlying medical conditions affecting cognition, judgment, vision
- Complete the elopement risk assessment within eight hours of admission
- Completion of the elopement risk assessment by a Registered Nurse is recommended
- Include resident and family orientation to the wandering/elopement management program as part of the new resident orientation process

Interventions and Care Planning

- Implement Primary Interventions for residents who have risk factors for wandering and elopement, but no history (e.g., activities in common areas, frequent checks, way-finding cues, and landmarks) ²
- Implement Secondary Interventions to address identified elopement risk factors (e.g., electronic monitoring bracelet, placement on a secured unit)²
- Establish a formal process for Purposeful Rounding (e.g., noting history of when wandering occurs – looking for the bathroom, something to eat)
 - Pain
 - Positioning
 - Personal Needs (e.g., bathroom room, hunger, thirst)
 - Personal items in reach (e.g., call light, phone, glasses)
 - Prompts (Safety reminders)³
 - Pick-Up (spills, cords, address unsafe conditions)
- Include resident safety status and safety awareness as part of Purposeful Rounding

Communication and Care Coordination

- Communicate resident safety status at shift change (e.g., shadowing behaviors, exit seeking, talking about going home)
- Discuss resident safety status/elopement risk at Care Plan Meetings with the resident and family
- Actively communicate wandering and elopement risk with care staff (e.g., care cards, electronic alerts)
- Document placement of the electronic monitoring bracelet every shift and confirm functioning of the bracelet daily¹

Post-Elopement Assessment and Response

- Define components of a clinically pertinent wandering and elopement risk assessment in the Elopement Management policy (e.g., exit seeking, difficulty finding their way in new places)
- Establish a formal communication process for elopement communication post-elopement event documentation (e.g., supervisor, physician, family)
- Define requirements for follow-up medical record documentation in policy (e.g., 72-hour post-elopement/change in condition documentation that includes resident safety status and safety awareness)
- Complete an incident report for all elopement events
- Assign oversight responsibility for the completion of the elopement investigation (e.g., DON or ADON)
- Define interdisciplinary team responsibility for review of all elopement events

Environmental Safety

- Complete and document environmental safety checks daily (e.g., door alarms, electronic monitoring, courtyards, hazardous areas secured)

Staff Training

- Train staff on the Wandering and Elopement Management Program during orientation
- Train staff on the Wandering and Elopement Management Program annually
- Include the following in licensed staff Elopement Management training:
 - Conducting an accurate elopement risk assessment
 - Interventions to manage elopement risk
 - Care planning to manage elopement risk
 - Resident and family education
 - Proactive wandering and elopement risk communication (e.g., shift report)
 - Documentation
 - Review of the Wandering and Elopement Management Program/Policy and Procedure

Sources:

1. Pendulum Risk Management Services. Elopement, Risk Reduction Strategies, and Management of Missing Residents. Vaaler Senior Resource Center. [Accessed September 16, 2023]
2. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. AHRQ's Safety Program for Nursing Homes: On-Time Prevention. [AHRQ's Safety Program for Nursing Homes: On-Time Prevention | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality](#). [Accessed September 16, 2023]
3. Health Quality Innovation Network. Four P's to Purposeful Rounding. Sep 13, 2022. [Four P's to Purposeful Rounding | HQIN](#) [Accessed September 16, 2023]

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